India and Bangladesh Agreement on sharing of Ganga Water

*15. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY :
SHRI RAM CHANDRA BHARADWAJ :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh signed an agreement in January 1986 for a plan of action for the joint study of the dry season flow of Ganga and augmentation of water supply at Farakka and sharing of water of other common rivers;

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are being taken to implement the decisions?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) No Sir. However the Joint Committee of Experts set up in pursuance of the inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding held a meeting in January 1986 and agreed on the methodology, procedure and time-table for the joint study.

Growing Hiatus Between the Irrigation Potential Created and its Utilisation

*16. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the hiatus between the irrigation potential created and the extent of its utilisation is growing; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The gap between the irrigation potential created and its utilisation has increased marginally due, *inter alia*, to inadequate infrastructure and extension facilities, inefficient distribution of water, change in cropping pattern involving high water consumption, inadequate supply of power and over-reporting of the potential created.

Accident in Bhilai Steel Plant

*17. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on 6th January, 1986 an accident took place in the Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is the first major accident in the Bhilai Steel Plant

(c) what is the number of persons who died and injured in the accident;

(d) what is the loss to the plant due to the accident;

(e) whether it is a fact that an efficiency drive is on at present in the said plant, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what are the reasons for this accident and who are the persons responsible for the accident?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 44 persons were injured out of which 9 died subsequently.

(d) The plant incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 69,000/- on

repairs to the damaged partition brick walls. As a result of the accident there was a drop in the oven pushings at two coke ovens on January 6th and 7th, 1986. This resulted in loss of production of about 1690 tonnes of coke. However, this did not affect the operation of the Blast Furnaces as the shortage of coke was made up by using coke from stock.

(e) Efficiency drive is in-built in the system of working and is a continuous process at the plants.

(f) An enquiry has established that while repair work was being carried out on a pipe leading to the coke oven, there was leakage of gas leading to fire and explosion. The enquiry has further held no work procedures were violated, as such no one in particular has been held responsible for the accident.

Publication of Language Programme Journals of the All India Radio

*18. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for closing down publication of Betar Jagat and other language programme journals of All India Radio;

(b) whether Government have received memorandum from the national Federation of Information and Broadcasting employees and several M.Ps, urging resumption of publication of the Betar Jagat and other language programme journals; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) to (c) As part of the exercise to review expenditure in every Department and achieve economy, a decision was taken after review to close down the four fortnightly Akashavani journals, namely, Akashi, Betar Jagat, Nabhovani and Vani. These magazines have been incurring losses over the years and are also unlikely to become self-supporting.

Representations from M.Ps and others against the closure of the journals were received and considered. Government's view is that, for the reasons mentioned above, the decision should stand.

Computerisation programme in Steel Plants by S.A.I.L.

*19. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE :
DR. R.K. PODDAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rs. 100 crores computerisation programme for the steel plants by the Steel Authority of India in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre has made any progress;

(b) if so, what are the details of the progress made in this regard with details of productivity and quality achieved thereafter; and

(c) what is the indigenous component in the said computerisation programme with percentage-wise and quantity-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) and (b) Plans for installing an integrated computer system in Bhilai Steel Plant are still at the initial stages. Action is in progress for selection of a consultant.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to form any estimate of the indigenous component of the programme.

Telecast of Tribal Dance and Song Programmes

*20. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of